Chief Engineer (Project Appraisal) CWC as Members with Chief Engineer (Irrigation Management) CWC as the Member Secretary and representatives from Central Electricity Authority, Central Ground Water Board, National Water Development Agency and the Ministry of Environment and Forests as invitee members to resolve the inter-State issues involved in Ichampally and Polavaram Projects. The new State of Chhattisgarh has also been included on 4th December, 2000 as a Member. The Committee which has been given time till 30th April, 2001 to submit its report, has held two meetings so far.

**Report on linking of Ganga and Cauvery Rivers**

86. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Report on linking of Ganga with Cauvery Rivers;

(b) by when agreement among various States would be reached for implementation on linking; and

(c) the modalities for transfer by inter-linking of rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers including Ganga, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to *inter alia* carry out the water balance and feasibility studies of National Perspective Plan.

Implementation of water transfer link proposal depends on how soon the detailed project reports with estimate of cost are prepared after consensus is reached among the concerned States in which the link proposal falls and availability of funds for their implementation.

**Indo-Nepal talk on Dams**

†87. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the up-to-date position of Indo-Nepal talks in regard to the construction of dams on the rivers mainly Kamla-Balan, Kosi and other rivers originating from Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Issues regarding Indo-Nepal Water Resources Development are under discussion between Nepal and India. The issue of construction of dams on rivers Kamla-Balan, Kosi and other rivers originating from Nepal was discussed at the Secretary level of the two countries on October 1—3, 2000 during the meeting of the Joint Committee on Water Resources. The two sides agreed to hold talks at expert level and decide about opening of Project/field offices for preparation of detailed project report of Sapt Kosi High Dam Project. For Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Mahakali (Sarda in India), an India-Nepal Joint Project Office has since been opened in Kathmandu in December, 1999 with the mandate of preparing a joint DPR. With regard to Kamla and Bagmati Multipurpose projects on rivers Kamla and Bagmati respectively, the matter is pursued vigorously with Nepal. As decided in the Secretary level meeting an Indian team is to visit Nepal soon for jointly identifying projects relating to development of small/medium hydropower projects in Nepal for mutual benefits.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.